



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 December 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The New Castle News reports two Pennsylvania men were arrested Monday, December 25, when police caught them stealing \$10,000 worth of copper pipes from a Penn Power electrical substation. (See item [5](#))
- The Houston Chronicle reports about 70 pieces of luggage were found inside a trash bin on Tuesday, December 26, most probably came from international flights arriving at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport. (See item [15](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 27, Christian Science Monitor* — **Energy outlook 2007: costs up.** Energy analysts are beginning to think 2007 will be a case of déjà vu, wherein prices start to ratchet up in the spring, peak in the summer at a new record, and then fall back to lower levels later in the year. Sluggish demand has already forced the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reduce production by 600,000 barrels per day. In addition, non-OPEC sources are expected to increase next year, as new discoveries in Russia, Brazil, and the U.S. Gulf of Mexico come onstream. While the Department of Energy estimates this could add a few hundred thousand barrels of oil a day to the world supply, any new supplies, however, could

quickly be absorbed by China. With its economy expected to expand by another nine to ten percent, its oil demand is expected to increase by about seven percent, estimates Paul Ting of Paul Ting Energy Vision. While China grapples with surging demand, some analysts believe geopolitical concerns about energy may once again roil the energy markets – such as those in Nigeria, particularly around the time of April's presidential election, and in Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries due to sectarian strife between Shiites and Sunnis.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/1227/p01s01-usec.html>

2. *December 27, Reuters* — **Canada gas exports to U.S. could plunge: analyst.** Canadian natural gas exports to the U.S. could post the largest drop in a generation in 2007, an analyst says, as exploration cuts reduce supply and home-grown demand to fuel oil sands output booms. Martin King of FirstEnergy Capital expects exports to fall by up to a billion cubic feet a day next year, down about 10 percent from current shipments around 10 billion cubic feet a day. "The supply picture is looking rather negative," King said. "You have to go back to 1984 to see a (similar) downward trend." King speculated the cut in exportable gas will come on both the supply and demand side. On supply, Canada's energy companies are losing their enthusiasm for drilling natural gas. Many of the country's biggest producers have announced big cuts to their gas-exploration programs next year. "Natural gas projects are being moved lower and lower down the priority list," King wrote in a report. But the problem is not just about supply. Canada's oil sands producers are voracious consumers of natural gas, using it to heat steam to liquefy the tarry bitumen reserves trapped in sand and as part of the process to produce refinery-ready crude from the bitumen.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/27/AR2006122700690.html>

3. *December 26, Associated Press* — **Malfunctioning transformer rattles Colorado foothills near old uranium mine.** Loud noises from a malfunctioning electrical switch near an old uranium mine rattled the foothills west of Denver Tuesday, December 26. Jefferson County sheriff's deputies confirmed that sparks flew from electrical equipment on a private road near the inactive Schwartzwalder Mine. There were no injuries and no reports of radiation. United Power spokesperson Troy Whitmore said after viewing video of the bright flashes from the equipment that officials at the company believe a switch serving the mine had been shaken loose. He said there was no explosion, but the continued electrical arcing could resemble a blast. High winds and blowing snow likely contributed to the incident, he said. Power was routed around the switch and by morning no homes were reported without electricity. Whitmore said the switch mainly served the mine, which used large amounts of electricity when it was in full operation. United has about 62,000 customers in six counties in the Denver area.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/national/view.bg?articleid=173949>

4. *December 26, Associated Press* — **Feds consider guards at nuclear plants.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) plans to ask for public comment on a five-year-old petition by an activist group that wants the agency to require nuclear power plants to station guards at facility entrances. Members of the nuclear watchdog group Three Mile Island Alert developed the petition during the summer of 2001. The group proposed the idea as a deterrent to terrorists who think an unmanned entrance gate is a sign that a successful attack is possible. Commission spokesperson Neil Sheehan said posting a guard at an entrance boils down to appearance, not

an actual layer of security. Beyond the entrance gate, there are multiple security checkpoints that a person must pass before getting into the sensitive part of a plant, said Sheehan. The commission plans to ask for public comment on the petition in the next two weeks as part of a wider effort to make permanent some of the security improvements it ordered after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061226/apfn_three_mile_island_security.html?.v=1

5. *December 26, New Castle News (PA)* — **Two men charged in copper pipe theft.** Two Lawrence County, PA men were arrested Monday, December 25, when police caught them allegedly stealing copper pipes from an electrical substation. The arrest in Ellwood City resulted in criminal charges against Dennis Mercadante and Kevin Black. Ellwood City police said they caught the two stealing about \$10,000 worth of copper pipes from a Penn Power substation on Pittsburgh Circle, when an alarm sounded there around 6:30 a.m. EST. Two Ellwood City patrolmen arrived to find an older model red Ford truck with a trailer backed up to the building. The officers walked up and saw the two alleged offenders wearing masks and loading the trailer with the copper.
Source: http://www.ncnewsonline.com/local/local_story_360092849.html
6. *December 26, Bloomberg News* — **Deep-sea rig shortage slows oil work in Gulf.** A global shortage of deep-sea drilling rigs is costing Chevron precious time as it taps the Gulf, and the equipment deficit may keep oil prices high. The Cajun Express is one of just 18 rigs worldwide capable of tapping the deepest discoveries. For the test well earlier this year at another Gulf field, the platform-shaped vessel, which motors from site to site, needed to drill four miles below the sea floor. The rig shortage is forcing oil companies to postpone new offshore wells in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere, says Peter Jackson of Cambridge Energy Research Associates. As a result, crude prices will remain high and U.S. reliance on imports from Africa and the Middle East will increase over the next decade, says David Foley of Grove Creek Asset Management. Even when available, the rigs are costly to operate. Chevron and its partners on the Tahiti field, Statoil ASA and Royal Dutch Shell PLC, are spending \$1 million a day to rent, staff and supply the Cajun and another rig, Discoverer Deep Seas, with fuel, food and hardware.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl-rigs2606dec26.0.650673.story?track=rss>
7. *December 25, Agence France-Press* — **Iran's nuclear drive linked to looming oil crisis: U.S. study.** Iran's nuclear ambitions are motivated not just by a desire for regional supremacy but by a potentially devastating crisis in its oil industry, says U.S. researcher Roger Sterns of Johns Hopkins University. Iran's image is of a muscular oil producer with plentiful reserves, but in fact it could soon face its own energy crunch owing to failing infrastructure and lack of investments, says Sterns. "The regime's dependence on export revenue suggests that it could need nuclear power as badly as it claims," Stern wrote. Rapid population growth means that domestic demand is rising all the time, but authorities have let their refineries and pipelines fray. So Iran, despite being the second-biggest exporter in the OPEC cartel behind Saudi Arabia, has to import oil products like gasoline to cope with demand. Stern calculated that since 1980, energy demand in Iran has risen 6.4 percent, exceeding supply growth of 5.6 percent. Exports meanwhile have stagnated since peaking in 1996. For at least 18 months, Iran has failed to meet its quota for oil production set by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061226/bs_afp/irannuclearpoliticsoilus_061226034214

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *January 01, National Defense* — **Shipbuilding plan sailing into turbulent seas.** Cutbacks in personnel, training and maintenance costs will fuel a moderate growth in Navy procurement programs starting in 2008, albeit at a slower pace than Navy leaders had forecast a year ago, analysts estimate. The Navy had projected its 2007 budget of \$127 billion would increase by 18 percent in 2008, but that is most probably “not achievable” unless the service trims more people from the force and slashes spending on weapon maintenance and operations, says James A. McAleese, defense industry analyst and attorney at McAleese & Associates. Procurement spending of about \$30 billion in 2007 was forecast to soar by 28 percent in 2008. But that is most certainly not going to happen, he adds. “The Navy cannot likely achieve currently planned procurement, even if it freezes both personnel and operations costs. “However, the Navy can credibly achieve \$12 billion to \$14 billion a year in shipbuilding, plus \$10 billion to \$12 billion a year in aircraft procurement,” McAleese predicts.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2007/January/Shipbuilding.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *December 26, CanWest News Service (Canada)* — **Gift cards just the ticket for organized crime.** Organized-crime groups are using gift cards as “virtual currency” for drug deals and money laundering. An organized-crime threat assessment for Canada and the U.S. by authorities identified gift cards and prepaid debit cards as one of the tools in the financial-crime kit of organized crime. Many retailers offer gift cards in set denominations. The deposit limit on such “closed” cards make them less attractive for organized-crime groups, said John Sullivan of RCMP. They prefer “open” cards with higher deposit limits, such as those offered by credit-card companies. RCMP officers said such cards are now accepted as valid currency between crime syndicates. The cards are useful for transferring money across the border, because they don’t qualify as “monetary instruments” and aren’t subject to reporting limits, Sullivan said. Internet-savvy crooks could also launder money by converting it into gift cards, then sell the cards online for less than card’s value. Gift cards are an attractive option for crime groups because they can be obtained without going through the “mainstream” banking system, Sullivan said. MasterCard Canada offers a gift card that can be loaded up to \$2,500. Applicants are not subject to a credit check, security deposit, employment, or income verification.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/topics/finance/story.html?id=877147bf-7d4a-4784-a707-73bba550b8ab&k=10939>

10. *December 26, Los Angeles Times* — **FTC gets broader authority to pursue foreign spammers.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) soon will go global in its hunt for spammers, phishers, and other online scammers. President Bush signed a bill Friday, December 22, that gives FTC broader authority to pursue e-crooks in other countries. The FTC said it had been hindered in such probes by legal barriers preventing it from sharing information with foreign countries or assisting them in their own investigations. The legislation gives the FTC abilities similar to those granted in the 1990s to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to share information with foreign counterparts. Specifically, the U.S. SAFE WEB Act gives the FTC the legal authority to share confidential information from its own investigations with foreign law enforcement authorities and assist them in their cases. The number of complaints of Internet fraud crossing U.S. borders (from Americans about foreigners and vice versa) more than quadrupled from 10,906 in 2002 to 44,310 in 2005, according to the FTC. The commission said those numbers understated the problem because many people filing complaints don't know whether the fraud is domestic or foreign.
- Source: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-foreignspam26dec26.1.7 41752.story?track=rss>

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

11. *December 27, USA TODAY* — **TSA modifies screening machines.** A new airport screening machine that peers through travelers' clothing has been modified so it won't show intimate body parts when it's tested at a U.S. airport for the first time starting next month. The modification to the controversial "backscatter" X-ray machine seeks to quiet critics who have helped block its use in airports by saying the vivid images seen by screeners invade passenger privacy. The altered images will show only cartoon-like black-and-white outlines of each passenger. But the Transportation Security Administration is facing questions from experts who say the agency has weakened the effectiveness of the low-intensity X-rays. "You don't see fine detail," said Robert Gould, a radiology professor at the University of California, San Francisco. "It's conceivable to me that (the modified machines) would miss plastic explosives." Plastic explosives are a major threat because they evade checkpoint metal detectors and a small amount could blow apart a jet. Backscatter X-rays will debut at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, and a few other airports will follow.
- Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2006-12-26-tsa-machines_x.htm
12. *December 27, Associated Press* — **Stranded travelers are gone, but their luggage remains.** The stranded travelers were gone from Denver's airport by Tuesday, December 26, but the stranded suitcases were not. The airport's two biggest airlines, United and Frontier, said they had cleared out the backlog of travelers stuck when a blizzard dumped up to two feet of snow last week. The storm closed the runways for two days and marooned about 4,700 people at the airport Wednesday night, December 20. But piles of misdirected luggage remain, lost in the rush to get passengers through the snowbound airport. "We had bags that came without passengers, and passengers that came without bags," Frontier spokesperson Joe Hodas said. Some passengers left their luggage behind in a rush to catch a standby flight or chose to leave the airport rather than wait for delayed bags, he said. Megan McCarthy, a spokesperson at United, said the airline allows passengers to go online and enter their baggage ticket number to

find out where their luggage is.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/TRAVEL/12/26/storm.bags.ap/index.htm>

13. *December 27, Associated Press* — **Iceland investor builds up stake in AMR.** An Icelandic investment firm is reportedly seeking a meeting with managers of American Airlines after accumulating a six percent stake in the parent company of the largest U.S. air carrier. The investment makes FL Group hf, an Icelandic limited-liability company, the third-largest holder of shares in AMR Corp., American's parent. The investment comes as speculation increases about possible mergers in the U.S. airline industry. A Securities and Exchange Commission filing by FL Group late Tuesday, December 26, revealed that 12.82 million of its shares, worth nearly \$400 million at AMR's current stock price, are owned by the Icelandic firm. FL Group's other holdings include stakes in banking and financial services, beverage companies, luxury retail and a number of European airlines. Reports of possible deals in the airline industry have boomed since last month, when US Airways Group Inc. launched a hostile takeover bid for larger rival Delta Air Lines Inc.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061227/american_airlines_iceland.htm?l?v=2

14. *December 27, Department of Transportation* — **Virgin America must give up international ownership and control to meet citizenship test for U.S. carrier status.** Virgin America would have to revise its ownership, corporate structure and associated agreements to be 75 percent owned and actually controlled by U.S. citizens before it can receive an operating certificate, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) said on Wednesday, December 27, in tentatively denying the company's application. Under the Federal Aviation Act, to be certificated as a U.S. airline, a company must first show that it is actually controlled by U.S. citizens, that the president and two-thirds of the board of directors are U.S. citizens, and that at least 75 percent of the voting interest is owned or controlled by U.S. citizens. The Department recently withdrew a proposed rule that would have amended its interpretation of the statute's "actual control" requirement so as to allow additional foreign investment. In its show-cause order, the Department tentatively concludes that Virgin America's close relationship with the UK-based Virgin Group indicates that the carrier is not under the actual control of U.S. citizens.

The show-cause order and other documents in the case may be found on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> docket OST-2005-23307.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot12406.htm>

15. *December 26, Houston Chronicle* — **Seventy pieces of luggage turn up in Texas trash bin.** Police are trying to determine how about 70 pieces of luggage landed inside a trash bin in north Harris County, Texas. The small mountain of bags was discovered on Tuesday, December 26, outside a pet shop near the North Freeway, Harris County Sheriff's deputies said. Some of the luggage had been rifled through. The baggage had destination tags from several overseas locations, including London and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, indicating they probably came from international flights arriving at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport. Because some of the bags originated in the Middle East, FBI agents also were brought in to examine the items. Although the luggage found in the trash bin came from several air carriers, Continental Airlines officials took custody and transferred them to their baggage service center. Because the luggage probably came from Bush airport, Houston police officers are leading the investigation.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/4427611.html>

16. *December 26, CNN* — **British Prime Minister Blair in holiday jet scare.** A Boeing 747 carrying British Prime Minister Tony Blair missed a turn after landing and struck runway lights Tuesday, December 26, at Miami International Airport, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson said. There were no casualties in the incident, which happened as Blair, his wife and some of his children were traveling to Miami for a vacation. "Nobody was injured and there was no damage" to the plane, airport spokesperson Marc Henderson told CNN. British Airways Flight 209 was carrying 343 passengers when the incident happened just after 6 p.m. EST, he said. British Airways spokesperson John Lampl said that a portion of the runway was under construction, making it difficult for the pilot to see clearly where he was on the runway. The plane was pushed back onto Runway 12–30, and taxied under its own power to its assigned gate, Henderson said.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/12/26/blair.plane/index.html>

17. *December 26, Washington Technology* — **Report: Privacy lax in Secure Flight program.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) committed “significant privacy missteps” in its crafting of its Secure Flight prescreening program for airline passengers, the Department of Homeland Security’s privacy office concluded in a new report. TSA introduced Secure Flight in fall 2004 to check passenger names against terrorist watch lists after two earlier prescreening efforts were scrapped. The program’s goal is to prevent passengers identified as suspected terrorists from boarding domestic flights. In response to privacy and management concerns raised by the Government Accountability Office and other organizations, TSA suspended development of the Secure Flight system earlier this year and has been reassessing the initiative.

Report: <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/privacy/privacy-secure-flight-122006.pdf>

Source: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/11/daily_news/29910-1.html

18. *December 20, Kansas City infoZine News* — **Coast Guard wants state boat licenses.** State governments would issue licenses to America's 77 million recreational boaters if the nation's top maritime law enforcer gets his way. U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Thad Allen said the potential for a terrorist attack launched from small boats means that states and the Coast Guard must cooperate better to watch who is on America's waterways. Forty-four states now require some kind of mandatory education before boaters can get on the water, but just one — Alabama — oversees boaters with the same rigor it applies to motorists, according to the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators of Lexington, KY. Because there are no formal details and Allen just "wants to create a dialogue," neither the Coast Guard nor boating groups would guess how much it could cost for every state to issue more stringent boat permits. What is certain is Allen's purpose in calling for licenses: America's under-supervised waterways are vulnerable to attacks, he said. The United States already has endured terrorism using small civilian craft, albeit overseas: In 2000, suicide bombers in the port of Aden, Yemen, used an inflatable boat to blow themselves up next to the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Cole, killing 17 sailors and wounding 39 others.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/19734/>

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

19. *December 27, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **USDA to launch National Dairy Study.** Through the National Animal Health Monitoring System, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is launching its fourth national study of America's dairy producers. Priority health and health management issues facing the U.S. dairy industry are the focus of this study. Beginning January 1, representatives from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will contact randomly selected dairy producers to participate in the Dairy 2007 study. Information for the study will be collected from producers in the 17 states that represent 79 percent of all U.S. dairy herds and 82 percent of all U.S. dairy cows.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=2703&yr=2006>

20. *December 27, Cattle Network* — **Kansas and USDA join forces to fight Johne's disease.** The state of Kansas is teaming with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to help Kansas beef producers test their herds for Johne's disease. The programs, funded by APHIS and sponsored by the Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD), as well as Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, also aim to help producers reduce and prevent the disease. KAHD will reimburse veterinarians a base fee for development of herd risk assessment and management plans. Funds also are available to support diagnostic testing of herds.

Johne's disease information: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahps/johnes/>

Source: <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=93694>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

21. *December 27, Korea Herald* — **Korea, U.S. agree to discuss beef dispute.** Korea has agreed to hold a meeting with the U.S. to address issues concerning current U.S. beef imports, a Seoul Agriculture Ministry official said Tuesday, December 26. "We will meet (in Korea) early next month to address U.S. beef import issues," Kim Chang-seob, chief veterinary officer of the Agriculture Ministry, told the Korea Herald. Washington on December 12 proposed holding a consultation meeting on the beef dispute stemming from import standards, which the U.S. government has criticized as having been "invented." The talks will come on the heels of the sixth round of talks for a bilateral free trade agreement scheduled to begin in Korea on January 15. As a condition for clinching a successful trade agreement with the world's largest economy, Washington has requested that Korea's beef market be fully open to U.S. competition.

Source: http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/SITE/data/html_dir/2006/12/28/200612280027.asp

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

22. *December 27, Reuters* — Vietnam says bird flu contained but not eliminated. Bird flu outbreaks in two Mekong Delta provinces of Vietnam have been contained but the risk of recurrence there and elsewhere was still high, officials said on Wednesday, December 27. Agriculture Minister Cao Duc Phat said in a report that the outbreaks had been brought under control in the Mekong Delta, where more than 9,000 ducks and chicken have been slaughtered since a first outbreak on December 11. The Agriculture Ministry's report also highlighted the risk of a bird flu recurrence in the Red River Delta in the country's north due to the widespread smuggling of poultry from China.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HAN70278.htm>

23. *December 27, Reuters* — Egyptian man dies of bird flu. A 26-year-old Egyptian man died of bird flu on Wednesday, December 27, the third member of his extended family to die of the virus, a World Health Organization (WHO) official told Reuters. Rida Farid Abdel Halim from the Nile Delta province of Gharbia had been in hospital for 10 days, Hassan el-Bushra, WHO regional adviser for communicable diseases surveillance, said. The province is some 50 miles north of Cairo. It was the 10th death from bird flu in Egypt since an outbreak of the virus started in February.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L27508270.htm>

24. *December 26, Haveeru Daily (Maldives)* — Tests confirm Chikungunya in Maldives. Tests done by sending blood samples abroad has confirmed the presence of Chikungunya, the Department of Public Health (DPH) has said on Monday, December 25. An official of the DPH said that due to recent outbreak of viral fever all over the country, the DPH had sent blood samples from people all over the Maldives to be tested abroad, and that the results had confirmed the presence of Chikungunya and Dengue fever virus in some parts of the Maldives. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed further revealed that over 20 percent of those who had reported in sick since December 5 were suffering from Chikungunya.

Chikungunya information: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/msds-ftss/msds172e.html>

Source: <http://www.haveeru.com.mv/?page=engdetails&id=13176>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

25.

December 26, Press–Enterprise (CA) — **FCC eliminates Morse Code requirement to increase ham radio operators.** Earlier this month, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) eliminated a requirement that amateur radio users show a basic understanding of Morse Code before they are issued an FCC license. The decision is expected to take effect in early 2007. FCC officials said the change will make it easier for some would-be enthusiasts to get involved in amateur radio, also known as ham radio. While considered a hobby, amateur radio is often relied upon for emergency communications when conventional communication systems are damaged or fail during national disasters or a crisis. "If this makes amateur radio more desirable to younger people, then so be it. A lot of ham radio operators are getting old, and if we don't get a lot of new people coming in, the whole hobby is going to die off," says Bob Wade, president-elect of the Riverside County, CA, Amateur Radio Club.
Source: http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_R_morse27.376c0cf.html

26. *December 21, Responder Safety (OH)* — **District of Columbia includes pets in disaster planning.** Emergency management and health officials in Washington, DC, have signed a plan that puts the district in an elite field among jurisdictions across the country — cities and counties that have formally adopted plans to include pets in disaster planning. The District of Columbia Department of Health led the effort, working with the DC Emergency Management Agency and the Humane Society of the United States, which applauded the district's plan. The signing comes two months after President George Bush signed legislation that requires states and local governments to draw up plans to include pets in disaster planning.
Source: <http://www.respondersafetyonline.com/500/News/Article/False/43844/News>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

27. *December 27, IDG News Service* — **Earthquake disrupts Internet access in Asia.** A pair of powerful earthquakes (magnitude 6.7 and 6.4) off the coast of Taiwan damaged undersea cables and disrupted telephone and Internet access in Asia on Wednesday, December 27. "All of the ISPs in Singapore are affected," said Michael Sim, a spokesperson for Starhub Internet Pte. Ltd. Japan's NTT Communications Corp. said 84 leased lines were out of service as a result of the problems and international toll-free calling was being disrupted. Conventional international calling was in operation albeit with limited capacity. Taiwan's telecommunications infrastructure was hit hard, with just 40 percent of international calling capacity to the U.S. functioning normally. Calling capacity to Japan and China was also affected, with 11 percent and 10 percent of capacity operational. Damage to the cables also disrupted Internet access in China, Hong Kong and Singapore.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/27/HNearthquake_1.htm
28. *December 27, IDG News Service* — **Microsoft sees botnets as top '07 Internet threat.** If there's one thing that Aaron Kornblum would like to quash, it's the botnet armies. Symantec Corp. counted more than 4.5 million of them during the first six months of the year, and according to Kornblum, they are the backbone of today's cybercrime. "Botnets are really where it's at for serious cybercriminals, because of their concentrated power," said Kornblum, a senior attorney with Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Safety Enforcement team. "That power can be used for

all sorts of malicious conduct on the Internet." These armies of compromised computers are behind such scourges as spam, phishing and denial-of-service attacks. Botnets are changing the economics of cybercrime, according to Daniel Druker, executive vice president of marketing with Postini Inc. The botnet networks have emerged as the number one source of spam over the past year, giving spammers access to virtually unlimited bandwidth, he said. There typically are about 50,000 computers sending spam and malicious content at any given moment, Druker said. Usually, these computers will pop up and operate for about 45 minutes, and then go silent, making it hard for them to be identified.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9006818&source=rss_topic85

29. *December 26, eWeek* — **Interest in SOA, SAAS expected to grow in 2007.** For companies that use enterprise applications from the leading vendors, 2007 to some degree won't offer many surprises. The top vendors — SAP, Oracle and to some degree, Microsoft — will continue investing in service-oriented architectures (SOA) and will grow their investments in software as a service (SAAS), according to industry observers. All three companies will continue their investments in their respective next-generation enterprise resource planning suites, with an underlying middleware platform. On the spending front, North American enterprises will significantly increase their cash outlay for new software initiatives and projects, said Ray Wang, an analyst with Forrester Research. In his report "The State of Enterprise Software Adoption," Wang states that enterprises plan to spend an average of 30 percent of their total IT budget of software related costs in 2007 — licenses, maintenance, operations and development. The top software priorities for next year will be improving integration between applications, upgrading security environments, and adopting SOA. SAAS spending will continue to increase among enterprises. Although medium and small companies lead as the current users of SAAS, 45 percent of Global 2000 and 32 percent of very large enterprises remain "somewhat interested" in adopting SAAS in 2007.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2074659.00.asp>

30. *December 21, VNUNet* — **Spam a lot worse in 2006: Report.** This year has been categorized by a "relentless escalation" of spam activity throughout the year as annual average levels of unsolicited junk e-mail reached 86.2 percent, security watchers have estimated. According to the 2006 Annual MessageLabs Intelligence Report, this hike in spam volumes has been driven largely by new targeted techniques and an increase in the sophistication of botnets. The report adds that adoption of new levels of ingenuity has changed the focus of the threat landscape significantly, with spam overtaking viruses as the dominant menace over the past 12 months, a trend which is predicted to continue through 2007. The study noted that corporate and industrial espionage attacks are also on the rise through targeted Trojans intended to steal intellectual property and confidential information. MessageLabs reports intercepting two attacks per day, compared to a much lower rate of one per week at the same point in 2005.

Report: http://www.messagelabs.com/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_434_462_-462_43/http%3B/0120-0176-CTC1%3B8080/publishedcontent/publish/threat_watch_dotcom_en/intelligence_reports/2006_annual_security_report/2006_annual_security_report_5.pdf

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/analysis/2171429/christmas-spam-alot-worse-2006>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 15901 (---), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 6881 (bittorrent), 1027 (icq), 4672 (eMule), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1028 (---), 25 (smtp), 135 (epmap)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[[Return to top](#)]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

31. *December 24, Associated Press* — **Mexican police detain four Iraqis in border city of Tijuana.** Mexican Federal police and immigration agents detained four Iraqi citizens in the border city of Tijuana on suspected immigration violations, after the Iraqis failed to present proper visas. Police told the government news agency Notimex that the Iraqis, including a child, were found Saturday, December 23, at a hotel in Tijuana, across the border from San Diego. All four were taken to an immigration detention center for possible deportation. It was not immediately clear whether the Iraqis were linked to Chaldean Christians, who have a sizable community in Southern California and frequently try to enter the United States through Mexico, claiming they face persecution in Iraq.

Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/12/24/america/LA_GEN_Mex_ico_Iraq.php

[[Return to top](#)]

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